

PRESS RELEASE



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Idaho Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Advances to National Competition

(Boise...March 26) Jillian Orr, a fifth-grade student at Gate City Elementary School in Pocatello is the Idaho state winner in the 2009 Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Orr's entry was selected by a panel of judges from the Idaho Forest Products Commission (IFPC) and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), co-sponsors of the contest. This year students were asked to create a poster reflecting the theme: "Trees are Terrific...In Cities and Towns!" Teachers used accompanying materials to educate students about the theme and the importance of planting and caring for trees.

Fifth-grade students from across Idaho participated in the contest this year. As the state winner, Jillian Orr will receive a \$200 US Savings Bond. A tree will be planted in her honor at the Capitol during the State Arbor Day celebration on April 24th and a stone marker noting her achievement will be set at its base. Orr's award-winning artwork will be printed as a poster and used to promote Arbor Day in 2010. Additionally, her teacher Ms. Sandy Katuin will receive \$100 in cash for classroom supplies. Prize money and poster reproduction is sponsored by revenues from Idaho Forestry License Plates, which support reforestation efforts and educational projects such as the poster contest.

As Idaho's state winner, Orr is now entered in the national contest which is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota Motor Corporation.

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“We’re glad to be a sponsor of this project. The Arbor Day Poster Contest is a great opportunity for students to learn about Idaho’s forests and all the things they provide,” said Betty Munis, Director of the Idaho Forest Products Commission. “These posters are a refreshing view of forests through the eyes of a 5th grader.” George Bacon, Idaho State Forester and Director of IDL noted, “Art is a wonderful way for students, like Jillian Orr, to explore and learn how trees grow, function and benefit our communities. An appreciation and understanding of the importance of trees is clearly fostered. Their posters encourage us all to value and care for our community forests now and into the future.”

In addition to Orr, Bridget Woodbury, from Mackay Elementary was selected as second place state winner and Riley Wilde, from Seltice Elementary in Post Falls, took third. Woodbury will receive a \$150 bond and Wilde will receive a \$100 bond. Their teachers will also receive \$100 for classroom supplies. Additionally, Molly Vitale Sullivan from Jefferson Elementary in Pocatello, Phillip Howard from Idaho Virtual Academy in Meridian and Sarah Cunningham from West Ridge Elementary in Post Falls each received an Honorable Mention. Nampa homeschooler, Sarae Simpson from Idaho Distance Education Academy received an Artistic Merit. All of these students will receive an Arbor Day T-Shirt.

Pictures of the winning posters can be viewed at www.idl.idaho.gov (click on community forestry, then Arbor Day at the top of the page). Copies of the poster will be available through the Idaho Forest Products Commission later this year. You can also learn more about Arbor Day and Idaho forests at www.idahoforests.org.

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